



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 15TH REGIMENTAL SIGNAL BRIGADE
FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905-5370

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZH-TB

26 April 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy Letter 8: Religious Accommodation

REFERENCES

- A. AR 165-1, Chaplain Activities in the United States Army
- B. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy
- C. DA Pam 600-75, Accommodating Religious Practices
- D. DoD Dir.1300.17, Accommodation of Religious Practices Within the Military Services

1. The Army and the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade Command provide an environment that protects Soldiers' rights to practice religious beliefs according to the tenets of their respective faiths. The Chaplain is the commander's special staff officer tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the constitutional right of free exercise of religion for all Soldiers.
2. There are numerous religious faiths represented by the Soldiers of the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, some of which are low density and are not represented by a Chaplain of like faith who can directly provide religious services. These Soldiers' faiths are equally as important in this unit. We will provide for them within the resources available on Post or in the local civilian community. There may be times when accommodation is not feasible. If the accommodation of a Soldier's religious practice will have an adverse impact on unit readiness, cohesion, standards, health, safety, discipline, or otherwise interfere with a Soldier's performance of duty and training, such accommodation may not be granted.
3. In order to ensure the "free exercise of religion," Soldiers are encouraged to provide their religious preference at the time of in-processing or during their newcomers' orientation. Commanders are expected to encourage their Soldiers to provide this information so that every Soldier's religious needs can be addressed.

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4. When a Soldier desires accommodation of their particular religious practice, there are certain guidelines that are clearly spelled out in AR 600-20 and DA Pam 600-75 for both the Soldier and the command. It is the Soldier's responsibility to notify the chain of command of their desire for religious accommodation. When the chain of command becomes aware of a Soldier's desire for religious accommodation in the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, the Soldier will be referred to the unit Chaplain for consultation.
5. The training environment and restrictions of IET Soldiers will sometimes present challenges if accommodation of religious practice requires the Soldier to attend off-post religious services. Privileges of IET Soldiers are addressed in Brigade Policy Letter 17 - Progressive Privileges and Limitations for Initial Entry Training Soldiers. Until Soldiers have earned off- post privileges, they must use on-post religious support facilities.
6. The unit Chaplain will provide Soldiers requesting religious accommodation with information related to religious opportunities on and off- post, to include distinctive faith religious events.
7. Violation of this policy memorandum by any 15th Regimental Signal Brigade Soldier provides a basis for disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or adverse administrative action.



FRANK G. PENHA
COL, SC
Commanding

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